

HB 89 -- COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Walton Gray

This bill establishes in the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education a Council for Community Education consisting of 11 individuals appointed by the Governor. Membership may include, but is not limited to, representatives of the following groups:

- (1) Civic organizations;
- (2) Community-based organizations;
- (3) Community education organizations;
- (4) Local government;
- (5) Local school district administrators;
- (6) Parent organizations;
- (7) Post-secondary education;
- (8) School boards; and
- (9) Teachers.

The Commissioner of Education within the department or the commissioner's designee must convene the first meeting of the council for the purpose of establishing the bylaws and electing officers. The council must not meet more than four times annually and members may be reimbursed for expenses but must not receive a per diem allowance.

The council must conduct feasibility studies on the establishment of community education programs within the state, advise the commissioner and the department on issues relating to the establishment of community education programs, make recommendations for a state plan for community education which specifies the goals and objectives of a community schools program and establishes a system of priorities for targeting available resources on the areas with the greatest need within a school district, and make recommendations for the funding of local community education programs.

"Community school" means a school that makes its facilities available for citizen use; coordinates activities of local citizens in identifying program needs and establishing priorities; identifies and utilizes available program resources; and assists in

the initiation of programs to improve the cultural, social, recreational, and educational opportunities available in a community. "Community education program" means a program in which a public building, including a public elementary or secondary school, is used as a community center operated by a school board in cooperation with other groups in the community, community organizations, and local governmental agencies to provide educational, recreational, cultural, health care, and other related community services in accordance with the needs, interests, and concerns of the community.